FTA Section 5310

Grant Application Program Information and Instructions Package

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Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 3
Schedule of Application Process Activities	Page 4
Vehicles and Equipment	Page 7
Evaluation and Selection of Projects Program Criteria	Page 8
Instructions for Completing Certifications	Page 9
Sample Public Notice	Page 9
Sample Public Hearing Notice	Page 10
Sample Letter of Notification to Local Human Service Transportation Providers	Page 11
Sample Letter to PDC	Page 12
Urbanized Areas Only Sample Letter to MPO	Page 13
Planning District Commissions	Page 15
Metropolitan Planning Organizations	Page 18
Checklist for FTA Section 5310 Application	Page 21

Introduction

The Virginia Program Information Application Package should be completed by agencies seeking to apply for financial assistance to purchase capital equipment. Eligible applicants for the FTA Section 5310 Program include:

- a. Non-profit corporations and associations for the specific purpose of assisting them in providing transportation services meeting special needs of elderly persons and persons with disabilities for whom mass transportation services are unavailable, insufficient or inappropriate;
- b. Public bodies approved by the State to coordinate <u>all private non-profit transportation</u> services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities in the public body's service area.
- c. Public bodies which certify to the Governor that no nonprofit corporations or associations are readily available in an area to provide <u>coordinated transportation services</u> <u>for elderly persons and persons with disabilities in the public body's service area</u>.

Under this FTA program, grant funds are distributed to states on the basis of their elderly and disabled populations. In FY2008, the Commonwealth of Virginia can expect to receive approximately \$2,000,000 in Section 5310 funds. This money is available only for capital improvements (i.e., no operating monies) relating to the provision of transportation services to the elderly and disabled. The Federal grant provides for 80 percent of the total cost with the applicant being responsible for the 20 percent balance.

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) has been designated as the agency to administer Virginia's FTA Section 5310 program. Eligible applicants submit applications to DRPT for evaluation and selection.

Schedule of Application Process Activities

The application process is set up on an annual cycle and the process from program announcement to equipment delivery, takes approximately fourteen months to complete. Noted below are the key dates for the process.

November 2005

The application process begins with the announcement of the program. After CAREFULLY READING THE APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS, eligible organizations must complete **ALL** parts of the application: FY 2007 Grant Application Program Certification Package, FY2008 Grant Application Budget Package and FY 2007 Grant Application Narrative Documents Package.

Upon completing the application, submit the online grant and submit the following information to the DRPT main office:

Articles of Incorporation/Private nonprofit
Copy of Letter of Exemption IRS Section 501 C3
Copies of Public notices printed in area newspapers
List of local, public and private human service agencies
One copy of letter of notice to human service agencies
Letters of response from human service agencies (one copy only)
Copy of letter of notice to PDC
Copy of letter of notice to MPO/urban area applicants
Signed FTA Certifications and Assurances
Completed Title VI Rights Form
Copy of Vehicle Insurance Package

The above information must be submitted to:

Neil I. Sherman, Specialized Program Manager Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation Post Office Box 590 Richmond, Virginia 23218-0590

February 1, 2007

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM ON Wednesday, February 1, 2007 TO BE CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING. Applicants may confirm DRPT's receipt of their application by calling Mr. Sherman at (804) 786-1154. LATE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED ON THE DRPT WEB SITE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

February 2007

DRPT conducts an administrative review of all applications.

February 2007

An Advisory committee, comprised of representatives from various state agencies involved with human service transportation, assists with evaluating proposals to develop a priority ranking of applications. The process used to evaluate proposals is based on a set of established criteria and a scoring scheme. Since the amount of money available is limited, the ranking of projects and conditions relating to an agency's fleet mileage will determine which proposals are funded and the number of vehicles to be awarded.

April 2007

DRPT reviews the recommendations of the advisory committee and combines all selected applications into a program of projects

June 2007

Commonwealth Transportation Board approves The FTA Section Program of Projects.

July 2007

Program of Projects reviewed by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

October 2007

DRPT executes a contract agreement with each awarded recipient. DRPT then conducts the procurement of vehicles and equipment. Competitive bidding is required for equipment purchase and specific procedures have been established to ensure compliance with Federal and State regulations.

February- April 2008

After equipment is delivered to the recipient. <u>The recipient is required to submit periodic monitoring and evaluation reports to DRPT.</u> A summary of these requirements is described on page 8 of this document.

Vehicles and Equipment

Equipment Eligible for Purchase

A major change in the FTA Section 5310 Program is that transportation equipment to be requested under this program will only be vehicles with accessible lift or ramps. To meet the needs with people with disabilities and increase coordination opportunities DRPT has decided only accessible vehicles will be purchased. (Refer to page 7 for a brief description of each vehicle type available.)

Due to the demand for funds, grants currently funded through the FTA Section 5310 program are primarily awarded to purchase vehicles that are: (1) required to replace unsafe equipment currently in operation; and (2) augment fleets that do not have sufficient carrying capacity to transport clients to existing services. Unsafe vehicles are defined as vehicles that have surpassed their useful life, (i.e. minimum of 4 years or 100,000 miles) and have frequent breakdowns, increasing the potential for hazardous operations.

DRPT has developed specifications for standard vans, small buses, and lift equipment that it uses for competitive bidding purposes. Further, fleet discount prices can be obtained when ordering several vehicles from one vendor. Therefore, applicants should select the equipment that they wish to apply for from the categories listed on page 26 of this section. DRPT is responsible for the invitations to bid, bid awards, etc., necessary for vehicle purchase.

Use of Vehicles

Vehicles acquired under the Section 5310 Program may be used only in the following ways:

- a. By the eligible applicant in a coordinated human service transportation program as described in its application.
- b. Section 5310 funded vehicles or other equipment that are operated by an agent other than the agency in the grant application, must be approved by DRPT.
- c. Vehicles acquired under the Section 5310 may be leased to a private for-profit operator only for the services identified in the grant application, when such companies could not otherwise provide required services and where such arrangements result in more efficient and effective service for elderly persons with disabilities.

Shared Use

During those periods when a vehicle is not needed for specific grant related purposes, equipment may be used for services to other elderly and disabled persons. After the needs of these groups have been addressed, the vehicle may be used for transportation of other members of the general public, on a space available basis, if such use is incidental to the primary purpose of transporting the elderly or disabled. Vehicles may also be used for non-mass transportation human service activities such as "meals on wheels" delivery if such use is incidental to the primary purpose of the vehicle and does not interfere with the intended use of the vehicle. The number of vehicles applied for must be determined by the number of passengers not meal delivery capacity.

Title of Vehicles

Organizations receiving grant funds can only title their vehicle(s) to the grant recipient.

Co-Titling of Vehicles

It may be beneficial for recipients to co-title vehicles with local governmental entities, in order to take advantage of blanket insurance rates or to participate in bulk purchase of fuel, maintenance and supplies. This is permitted where it results in a direct benefit to the recipient in providing special service, and as long as the recipient maintains <u>continuing control</u> over the vehicle and utilizes the vehicle for its authorized purpose.

First Lien-Holder

The Department of Rail and Public Transportation will be the First Lien-Holder on all FTA Section 5310 vehicles.

Equipment Descriptions

A. Below is a brief description of the various types of vehicles that may be obtained through a Section 5310 grant. Further information about project equipment may be obtained from Mr. Sherman at neil.sherman@drpt.virginia.gov.

- Modified minivan a minivan with wheelchair ramp.
- 9-Passenger raised roof van with wheelchair lift.
- ♦ 10-passenger body on chassis vehicle with wheelchair lift.
- ◆ 14-passenger body on chassis vehicle with wheelchair lift.
- ♦ 15-passenger body on chassis vehicle with wheelchair lift.
- ♦ 19-passenger body on chassis vehicle with wheelchair lift.

THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF WHEELCHAIR PLACEMENTS WILL INFLUENCE SEATING CAPACITY FOR WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES.

Evaluation and Selection of Projects Program Criteria

In the **FTA 5310 Narrative Documents Package**, applicants should exhibit a high probability of success by a sound managerial and operating strategy, and reflect the capability to properly monitor, maintain and repair equipment to ensure safe and reliable transportation. They should also reflect cooperative planning and coordination efforts. Coordination is defined as the joint action of two or more organizations to provide transportation services to the elderly and disabled. Such joint actions can include the common sharing of transportation facilities and/or equipment or cooperative arrangements, which improve service efficiency levels.

DRPT is required by FTA to assure that grant recipients have provided for maximum coordination of transportation services. DRPT is making coordination of transportation services the most important goal and priority of Virginia's Section 5310 program.

RATING: MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE = 100

Insurance Requirement

All recipients of the Section 5310 program should have vehicle liability insurance coverage of the following:

\$1,500,000 – 7 to 15 passenger vehicle

\$5,000,000 - 16 passenger's vehicle or more

Post-Grant Reporting and Monitoring Requirements

Upon receiving a Section 5310 grant, an agency will sign a contract with DRPT, which, among other things, will commit the agency to certain reporting and certification requirements.

1. Post-Grant Reporting Requirements

Grantees are required to submit six-month operating reports to DRPT throughout the useful life of the equipment.

II. on Site Inspections

On-site inspections will be completed by DRPT staff to monitor the maintenance procedures used for vehicles obtained by human service agencies through the FTA Section 5310 program. The purpose of conducting inspections will be to evaluate the operating status of an agency's fleet and the preventive maintenance procedures employed by grantees to ensure that the proper manufacturing maintenance practices are utilized.

Instructions for Completing Application Administrative Review

** Private nonprofit organizations should attach to this section a copy of your agency's Articles of Incorporation and copy of the letter of exemption for the applicant under Section 501(c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Certification and Assurances

The Certification and Assurances can be found on page 4 of the FY2007 Grant Application Program Certification Package. Only the signature sheet on page 16 needs to be Submitted to DRPT.

Notifying Interested Parties of Your Intent to Apply

In order to allow public comment on your grant application, applicants are required to notify all parties in your service area that might have an interest in your grant application.

First, applicants are to develop and publish a public notice of intent to apply for a FTA Section 5310 grant. This notice must be advertised in the local newspaper and should appear **AT LEAST 14 DAYS** before the application submittal deadline. In other words, the public notice should be advertised by <u>January 15, 2006</u>. A sample public notice is provided below. A copy of your public notice printed in your local paper must be attached to the application.

Sample Public Notice

The ECHO, Inc. from Leesburg, Virginia proposes to provide transportation for developmentally disabled individuals in the county of Loudoun for the purpose of transporting developmentally disabled individuals to and from training, and other community integration and socialization projects. Funds are being requested from the Commonwealth of Virginia to purchase a 9-passenger van with a wheelchair lift through the FTA Section 5310 Program. The vehicle will be used to transport wheelchair participants and ambulatory participants from their homes in Loudoun County to ECHO, Inc. and back to their homes from 6:00am to 6:00pm of the We invite any interested public or private transit or paratransit operator in the Leesburg-Loudoun area to comment on the proposed services by sending a written notice by February 1, 2006 to Mr. Neil Sherman, Department Rail and Public Transportation Division, P.O. Box 590, Richmond, Virginia 23218-0590, and to ECHO, Inc.P. O. Box 2277, Leesburg, Virginia 22075.

Note: An actual copy or reasonable facsimile of the notice as it appeared in the newspaper must be included in the application.

Public Bodies that apply for the FTA Section 5310 Program are required to hold a public hearing on the application to receive comments from the general public. A copy of a public notice announcing the applicant's public hearing, published in a major newspaper, must be attached to this part of the FTA Section 5310 application. Such notice must be published at least fourteen (14) calendar days in advance of the date of the hearing. A verbatim transcript of the public hearing proceedings must be available, and a summary of the proceedings must be submitted with the FTA Section 5310 application. A sample of a public hearing notice is below:

Sample Public Hearing Notice

Notice is hereby given that the public is being given an opportunity to request a public hearing concerning the application for federal funds to support transportation services for elderly persons and persons with disabilities by FASTRAN, service of the Fairfax County Department of Community and Recreation Services. A copy of the application is available for public inspection at FASTRAN, Department of Community and Recreation Services, Fairfax County, 12011 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 710 Fairfax, VA 22035. The public hearing will be held on January 12, 2006. Any comments made at the public hearing will be submitted to the Department of Rail and Public Transportation for inclusion into the grant application.

All applicants are required to contact all private nonprofit human service agencies in your service area to advise them of your intent to apply for a grant. Applicants are expected to look for opportunities to work with these other agencies to share resources and offer mutual support. It is a highest priority of the FTA Section 5310 program to ensure that the greatest amount of productivity possible will be realized for elderly and disabled transportation programs supported through these vehicle awards. It is often possible for agencies to share equipment and resources or to coordinate transportation services to eliminate duplication. Copies of response letters must be attached to the application. A sample letter of notification to human service agencies is provided on page 11.

Applicants should submit (1) sample letter of notification forwarded to human service agencies in their service area. Applicants should also include a list of all human service agencies informed of your intent to apply for FTA Section 5310 funds.

Sample Letter of Notification to Local Human Service Transportation Providers

Dear Sir/Madam:

Pleasant View Home and Regional Center in Broadway, Virginia, intends to provide a fixed mini-bus route for developmentally disabled individuals in the County of Rockingham, which includes the City of Harrisonburg, Towns of Broadway, Bridgewater, Dayton, Elkton, Grottoes, Mt. Crawford, and Timberville. The purpose is to transport the developmentally disabled individuals to and from Developmental Day Programs, and other community integration and socialization projects that are deemed necessary to increase the independence of the developmentally disabled.

Funds are being requested from the Commonwealth of Virginia to purchase a 9-passenger van with lift through the FTA Section 5310 Program. The Commonwealth of Virginia's policy states that where possible, recipients should coordinate with other local providers who provide transportation services to enhance resource-sharing opportunities.

We invite you, as a local provider within the Harrisonburg-Rockingham area, to comment on the proposed services. We are particularly interested in exploring opportunities to work with your agency to coordinate services, share resources, or pursue other activities that will mutually benefit our transportation programs. If your are interested in exploring this further, please notify us at the Pleasant View Home and Regional Center, P.O. Box 426, Broadway, Virginia 22815. (Letters of support from human service agencies should not be sent to DRPT.)

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely yours,

John Doe Executive Director JV: ss

Intergovernmental Review

Planning Requirements: Non-Urbanized Areas

Their regional intergovernmental clearinghouse must review section 5310 projects in non-urbanized areas. This review is obtained by submitting the project to the regional Planning District Commission (PDC). Projects must be submitted to the PDC by January 31, 2006.

The applicant is required to send a letter to its regional Planning District Commission (PDC) describing its proposal for FTA Section 5310 funding. A sample letter is provided below.

The letter must explain the type and amount of funding requested and the transportation service the applicant intends to provide. Any comments by the PDC regarding the proposal must be sent to Neil Sherman of DRPT. The addresses for Virginia's PDC's are provided in this document beginning on page 15.

Sample Letter to PDC

Executive Director Richmond Regional Planning District Commission Interstate Center 2104 West Laburnum Ave., Suite 101 Richmond, Virginia 23227

Dear Sir:

The Capital Area Association of Senior Citizens (CAASC) is seeking capital assistance from the Commonwealth of Virginia through the FTA Section 5310 program to purchase transportation equipment. As part of the application process, we are required to notify our regional planning organization and request an Intergovernmental Review of our grant request.

CAASC is requesting funding to purchase three 9-passenger vans with lifts. Our plan is to provide demand-responsive transportation for our elderly clients in the Richmond metropolitan area, to get to agency-related activities, medical appointments, grocery stores, and other destinations. We request that you, as the regional planning body, take appropriate action to fulfill the Intergovernmental Review and direct all comments on the proposed service to:

Mr. Neil Sherman Specialized Program Manager Department of Rail and Public Transportation Division P.O. Box 590 Richmond, Virginia, 23218-0590

If you have any questions about our proposal, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

J.H. Doe Executive Director Requirements for Urbanized Areas - Northern Virginia, Hampton Area, Richmond Area, Petersburg Area, Lynchburg Area, Roanoke Area, Kingsport Area, Bristol Area, Charlottesville Area, Winchester Area, Harrisonburg Area, Montgomery County (Blacksburg and Christiansburg), and the Danville Area. (Populations areas having more than 50,000 populations.)

Applicants in the urbanized areas listed above must notify their Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) of their intent to apply for Section 5310 funds. <u>FTA Section 5310 applicants must request that the proposed project be included in the annual element of the region's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). A TIP is a transportation plan, which must be developed for each urbanized area as a condition of funding. The comprehensive planning process results in plans and programs that are consistent with the development of the urbanized areas. The Annual Element is a list of transportation improvement projects proposed for implementation during each transportation program year. Each urbanized area has its own annual elements. A sample letter is provided below and the addresses of the MPO's are provided in this document beginning on page 18.</u>

Urbanized Areas Only Sample Letter to MPO

Executive Director Richmond Metropolitan Planning Organization Interstate Center, 2104 West Laburnum Avenue, Suite 101 Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Sir:

The Capital Area Association of Senior Citizens (CAASC) is seeking capital assistance from the Commonwealth of Virginia through the FTA Section 5310 Program to purchase transportation equipment. As part of the application process, we are required to notify our Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization and request that the project be included in the annual element of the Transportation Improvement Program. CAASC is requesting funding, to purchase three 9-passenger vans with lifts. The total cost of the project is approximately \$90,000.00. The federal grant is for 80 percent of the total cost with agency being responsible for the 20 percent balance.

Our plan is to provide demand-responsive transportation for our elderly clients, in the Richmond metropolitan area, to get to agency-related activities, medical appointments, grocery stores, and other destinations.

Please send documentation that the project has been included in the TIP to the address listed below:

Mr. Neil Sherman, Specialized Program Manager Department of Rail and Public Transportation Division P. O. Box 590 Richmond, Virginia 23218-0590

This information is required for our application to be considered for approval. If you have any questions about our proposal, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

J.H. Doe Executive Director Active involvement by the PDC or MPO in coordinating human service transportation services may be helpful to your application. If such involvement exists, it must be documented by the PDC/MPO and presented to DRPT. In addition, the following schedule must be met:

Comments from the PDC/MPO must be received by DRPT no later than February 2, 2006. The PDC/MPO must describe its involvement in the planning, coordination, or improvement of human service transportation programs in its region.

Planning District Commissions

DISTRICT 1

Ronald C. Flanary, Executive Director Lenowisco Planning District Commission P.O. Box 366 Duffield, Virginia 24244

DISTRICT 2

Andrew Chafin, Executive Director Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission P.O. Box 548 Lebanon, Virginia 24266

DISTRICT 3

Thomas G. Taylor, Executive Director Mount Rogers Planning District Commission 1021 Terrace Drive Marion, Virginia 24354

DISTRICT 4

David W. Rundgren, Executive Director New River Valley Planning District Commission P.O. Box 21 Radford, Virginia 24141

DISTRICT 5

Wayne H. Strickland, Executive Director Roanoke Valley-Allegheny Regional Commission Fifth Planning District Commission P.O. Box 2569 Roanoke, Virginia 24010

DISTRICT 6

William H. Strider, Executive Director Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission 112 MacTanly Place Staunton, Virginia 24401

DISTRICT 7

Stephen W. Kerr, Executive Director Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission 103 East Sixth Street Front Royal, Virginia 22630

DISTRICT 8

G. Mark Gibb Northern Virginia Planning District 7535 Little River Turnpike, Suite 100 Annandale, Virginia 22003

DISTRICT 9

Mark Van de Water Rappahannock-Rapidan Planning District Commission 420 Southridge Parkway Suite 106 Culpeper, Virginia 22701

DISTRICT 10

Harrison B. Rue, Executive Director Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission Post Office Box 1505 Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-1505

DISTRICT 11

Gary Christie, Executive Director Region 2000 Post Office Box 817 Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

DISTRICT 12

Robert W Dowd, Executive Director, AICP West Piedmont Planning District Commission P.O. Box 5628 Martinsville, Virginia 24115-5628

DISTRICT 13

Joyce I. French, Executive Director Southside Planning District Commission P.O. Box 150 South Hill, Virginia 23970

DISTRICT 14

Jack Houghton, Executive Director Piedmont Planning District Commission Post Office Box P Farmville, Virginia 23901

DISTRICT 15

Paul E. Fisher, Executive Director Richmond Regional Planning District Commission Interstate Center 2104 West Laburnum Ave., Suite 101 Richmond, Virginia 23227

DISTRICT 16

Stephen H. Manster, Executive Director Rappahannock Area Development Commission Post Office Box 863 Fredericksburg, Virginia 22404

DISTRICT 17

Jerry W. Davis, Executive Director Northern Neck Planning District Commission P.O. Box 1600 Warsaw, Virginia 22572

DISTRICT 18

Dan Kavanagh, Executive Director Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission P.O. Box 286 Saluda, Virginia 23149

DISTRICT 19

Dennis K. Morris, Executive Director Crater Planning District Commission Post Office Box 1808 Petersburg, Virginia 23803

DISTRICT 22

Paul Berge, Executive Director Accomack-Northhampton Planning District Commission P.O. Box 417 Accomack, Virginia 23301

DISTRICT 23

Arthur L. Collins, Executive Director Hampton Roads Planning District Commission 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

Metropolitan Planning Organizations

BRISTOL AREA

Rex Montgomery Metropolitan Planning Organization City of Bristol, Tennessee P.O. Box 1189 Bristol, Tennessee 37621-1189

CHARLOTTESVILLE AREA

Harrison B. Rue, Executive Director Metropolitan Planning Organization Post Office Box 1505 Charlottesville, Virginia 22902-1505

DANVILLE AREA

Robert W. Dowd, Executive Director Metropolitan Planning Organization P.O. Box 1191 Martinsville, Virginia 24112

FREDERICKSBURG AREA

Stephen H. Manster, Executive Director Rappahannock Area Development Commission 3304 Bourboun Street, Third Floor Fredericksburg, Virginia 22408

HAMPTON ROADS/CHESAPEAKE AREA

Arthur Collins, Executive Director Metropolitan Planning Organization 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, Virginia 23320

KINGSPORT AREA

William A. Albright LENOWISCO Metropolitan Planning Organization 225 West Center Street Kingsport, Tennessee 37660

LYNCHBURG AREA

Gary Christie, Executive Director Transportation Planning Council P.O. Box 817 Lynchburg, Virginia 24505

RICHMOND AREA

Paul E. Fisher, Executive Director Richmond Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Interstate Center, Suite 101 2104 W. Laburnum Richmond, Virginia 23227

ROANOKE AREA

Wayne Strickland, Executive Director Metropolitan Planning Organization P.O. Box 2569 Roanoke, Virginia 24010

TRI-CITIES AREA

Dennis Morris, Executive Director Metropolitan Planning Organization P.O. Box 1808 Petersburg, Virginia 23803

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION)

Ronald Kirby, Executive Director National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 777 North Capitol Street, Suite 300 Washington, D.C. 20002-4226

Winchester Area

Stephen W. Kerr, Executive Director Lord Fairfax Planning District Commission 103 East Sixth Street Front Royal, Virginia 22630

Harrisonburg Area

William H. Strider, Executive Director Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission 112 MacTanly Place Staunton, Virginia 24401

Montgomery County Area

Dan Brugh Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery Area MPO 755 Roanoke Street, Suite 2E Christiansburg, VA 24073-3181

Checklist for FTA Section 5310 Application

General Information	
Articles of Incorporation/Private nonprofit	
Copy of Letter of Exemption IRS Section 5	01 C3
Copies of Public notices printed in area new January 15, 2006	wspapers (Must be advertised by
List of local, public and private human serv	vice agencies
One Copy of letter of notice to human serv	vice agencies
Letters of response from human service a	gencies, (ONE COPY ONLY)
Copy of letter of notice to PDC	
Copy of letter of notice to MPO/urban area	applicants
Signed FTA Certifications and Assurances	
Completed Title VI Civil Rights Form	
Copy of Vehicle Insurance Package	